

## REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 1-5, 7, and 9-20 were pending in this application. Claims 4, 5, and 19 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 9, 12, and 17 have been amended to more clearly recite features of the present invention. New claims 21 to 23 have been added. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the specification and drawings. No new matter has been presented. Claims 1-3, 7, 9-18, and 20-23 will be pending herein upon entry of this amendment. For the reasons stated below, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, claims 1-5, 7 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Small (US Pat. No. 6,326,766); claims 10-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Small in view of Kfouri (US Pat. No. 6,049,192); and claims 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Small in view of Wierzbicki (US Pat. No. 6,014,009). To the extent these grounds of rejection might be applied to the claims now pending in this application, they are respectfully traversed.

Amended claims 1 and 12 now recites that the battery drawer cover extends to cover the top of the battery in the battery drawer. Neither Small nor Kfouri teach a battery drawer cover, secured within the body, that covers the top of the battery. Both Small and Kfouri teach battery drawers that have covers separated from the body. (See Small Fig. 11 and Col. 11, line 66 to Col. 12, line 8; Kfouri Figs. 2-3.) The examiner suggests that the charger door 210 of Small is equivalent to the battery drawer cover. (Office Action Pages 2-3.) Small identifies the charger's

door as a door to the entrance of the recharger, but not as a cover over the battery. In contrast, the present invention teaches a battery drawer cover that extends over the battery to prevent access to the cavity of the drawer or the battery in the drawer in the event that the interior compartment of the body is exposed. (See Specification Paragraphs 25-26.) Claims 1 and 12 have been amended to clarify this characteristic of the invention. Dependent claim 9 was also amended for clarity. Therefore, claims 1 and 12 and all related dependent claims are, for at least that reason, in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 11 recites a combination ejector and electrical circuit maker, wherein the maker establishes an electric circuit between the charging circuit and the battery in the closed state, operates to eject the battery drawer from the body, and electrically opens the electric circuit between the battery circuit and the battery in the open state. In contrast, Small discloses a *system* that is comprised separately of a catch mechanism to open the charger door and contact strips to charge the battery. (See Fig. 17 and Col. 16, lines 15 to 57.) Furthermore, Small's catch mechanism does not eject the battery drawer from the body, but merely opens the charger door, allowing the user to grab and remove the battery drawer from the body. (Col. 19, lines 6-12.) None of the other cited prior art discloses this feature of the claimed invention. Therefore, claim 11 and related dependent claims are in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 17 has also been amended to clarify that the battery drawer cover has a protrusion that extends over the extension portion of the battery holding apparatus. This feature is shown in Fig 2. Neither Small nor Wierzbicki discloses this feature. Therefore, claim 17 and its dependent claims are, for at least the reason stated, in condition for allowance.

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Based at least on these reasons, the pending grounds of rejection should be withdrawn.

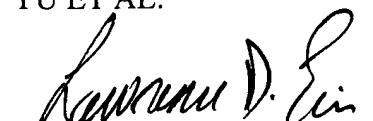
In view of the foregoing all the claims in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,  
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